



Congressman

John M. McHugh

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*House Committee on Government Reform
Subcommittee on the Postal Service*

**McHUGH SUBCOMMITTEE TO HEAR FROM POSTAL OFFICIALS AND
EMPLOYEE GROUPS ON THE POSTAL MODERNIZATION ACT OF 1999**

WASHINGTON -- Rep. John M. McHugh (R-NY) Chairman of the House Subcommittee on the Postal Service will hold a hearing on the Postal Modernization Act of 1999 on Thursday, February 11. The hearing will begin at 10 a.m. in Room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

The McHugh Subcommittee will hear testimony from the Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer of the U.S. Postal Service, William J. Henderson and the Chairman of the independent Postal Rate Commission, Edward J. Gleiman. In addition, the Subcommittee will hear testimony from the presidents of the Postal Service's four employee unions and three management associations.

The bill, H.R. 22, introduced by Chairman McHugh and cosponsored by Government Reform Committee Chairman Dan Burton (R-IN) is intended to modernize the nearly 30-year-old postal laws to allow the Postal Service to address challenges facing it in a changing communications environment. H.R. 22 would give the Postal Service greater freedom to compete while establishing new rules to ensure fair competition and protect the public interest.

"Congress needs to modernize outdated postal laws to give the Postal Service both the tools and the incentive to adapt itself to the demands of the 21st century. H.R. 22 is a balanced proposal to ensure a viable Postal Service, one that is providing universal service at reasonable rates, well into the next century," said Rep. McHugh.

H.R. 22 was originally introduced in June 1996 in the 104th Congress after a year and a half of oversight hearings. Five additional legislative hearings were held, and a detailed plan to revise H.R. 22 was announced in December 1997. After taking into account additional extensive public comments on this plan, the Subcommittee voted in a bipartisan manner to approve the bill on September 24, 1998. The 105th Congress was unable to take further action before it adjourned.

A copy of H.R. 22 and explanatory materials can be obtained from Rep. McHugh's Subcommittee website (<http://www.house.gov/reform/postal/hearings/hr22.htm>).

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